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LETTER DATED 4 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter dated 2 April 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mate Granić, addressed to you.

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 2 April 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with deep concern that I would like to inform you and the distinguished members of the Security Council of some extremely dangerous and worrisome developments that have taken place in the course of the last several days.

On Friday and Saturday, the Croatian town of Županja and the nearby village of Gunja came under repeatedly heavy artillery shelling from across the Sava River, i.e. territory of the neighbouring Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina presently under the control of the irregular Serbian forces. At least a dozen shells fell on the area, a general alert was sounded and the local populace had to seek safety in underground shelters on Good Friday. The attacks have also inflicted substantial material damage.

I would like to draw your attention that these criminal acts have taken place against the backdrop of recently adopted Security Council resolution 908 (1994), by which the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force was renewed and somewhat modified. These attacks have also been launched following the recently signed overall cease-fire agreement between the representatives of the Croatian Government and the Serbian insurgents in the United Nations Protected Areas on the territory of the Republic of Croatia (see S/1994/367, annex).

According to information at our disposal, as well as news agency dispatches, the very same irregular Serb forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina have continued with their gruesome and repugnant practice of ethnic cleansing. High officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) publicly accused the Serb irregulars of killing at least 17 Muslim and 2 Croats in the Prijedor area over the period of three days leading up to Friday, 1 April 1994. They also claimed that at least 40 Muslim and Croat houses had been completely destroyed or severely damaged in bombing attacks in Prijedor. Owing to the fact that the personal safety of some 6,000 Muslims could no longer be guaranteed by the international humanitarian organizations, ICRC is seriously considering evacuating these unfortunate people from the city, along with the rest of the non-Serbian population. Very similar and equally disturbing information is coming out of Banja Luka, another northern Bosnian town under Serbian control. Ethnic cleansing of Banja Luka, in which some 70,000 non-Serbs are living at present, has evidently been intensified in the last 48 hours, according to ICRC officials.

If ethnic cleansing of the northern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and similar criminal acts being committed by the irregular Serb forces are not stopped immediately, the Republic of Croatia will be faced by yet another great flood of refugees and displaced persons. Adding another 50,000 to 75,000 persons to the already unbearable burden of some half a million refugees

and the displaced persons in Croatia would certainly put my Government in an extremely difficult position and totally deplete very limited resources at our disposal. I therefore plead with you to use all your influence and authority under the existing Security Council resolutions to bring these worrisome developments to an end.

Despite Security Council resolution 908 (1994), as well as the cease-fire agreement of 27 March 1994 (see S/1994/367, annex), large parts of Croatian territory continue to be exposed to criminal attacks and devastation by the Serbian irregular forces, thus jeopardizing the cause of peace.

My Government is deeply convinced that Croatia's demand, as presented in the letter of 16 March 1994 from President Franjo Tudman to the Secretary-General (S/1994/305), for ensuring and establishing a firm control by the United Nations troops over the borders of the Republic of Croatia has by the latest developments been proven even more justified.

I would like strongly to reiterate this demand and express the sincere hope that the Security Council will, under your able guidance and presidency, find ways and sufficient resources to stop the criminal and unprovoked attacks against my country.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs